

[19 April, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

Air space violation by Pakistan

3673. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the recent air space violation by Pak aircrafts in Jammu's Chhamb Sector were first noticed and identified by the Army formation and the IAF radar network in the border State failed to detect the Pak aircrafts intrusion into the Indian airspace;

(b) if so, whether Government have gone into such a serious incident having grave security implications;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what action has been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (d) On the 19th of February 2001, two Pakistani Army reconnaissance aircraft violated Indian airspace in the Chhamb Sector, and were spotted by the Army.

There are set procedures to detect intruding aircraft, either, visually or by radars. These two intruding aircrafts flew into Indian airspace at ultra low level, to evade detection by radars. However, the observers, deployed by the Army, in the area, were vigilant and they sighted these intruders, visually.

Efforts are being made to strengthen the vigil in the border area, by inducting various types of surveillance equipment, including low-level surveillance radars.